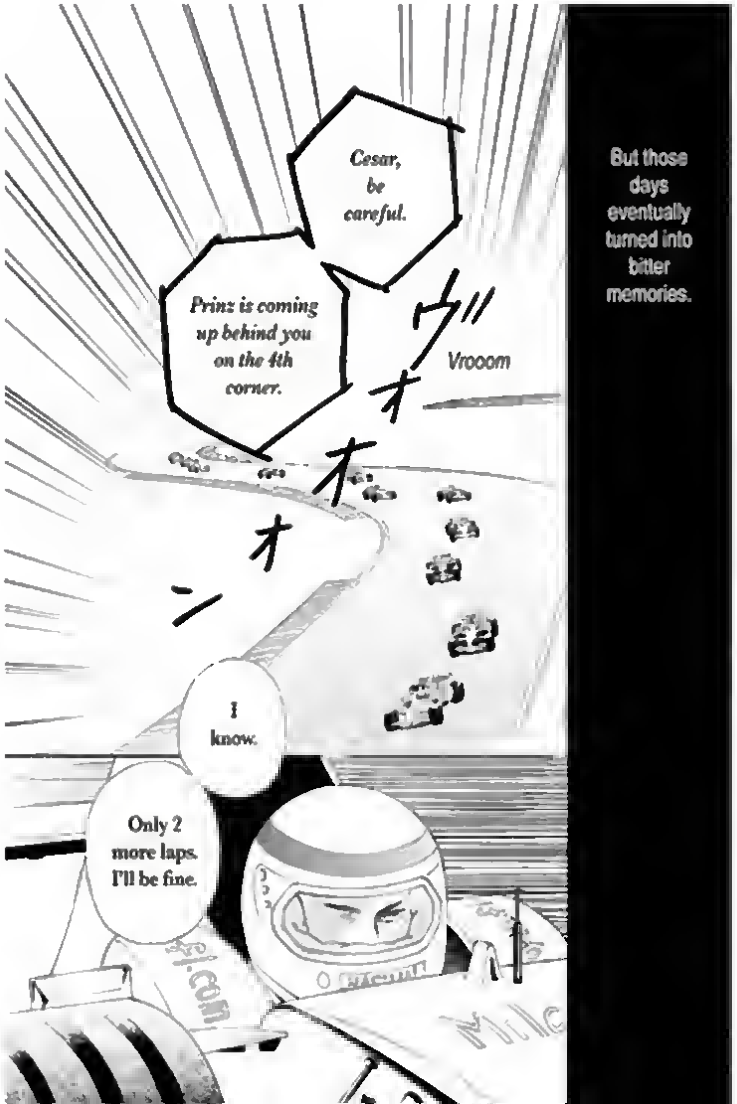
HARLEQUIN

The Italian Playboy's Secret Son

Takako Hashimoto

Original Text by Rebecca Winters



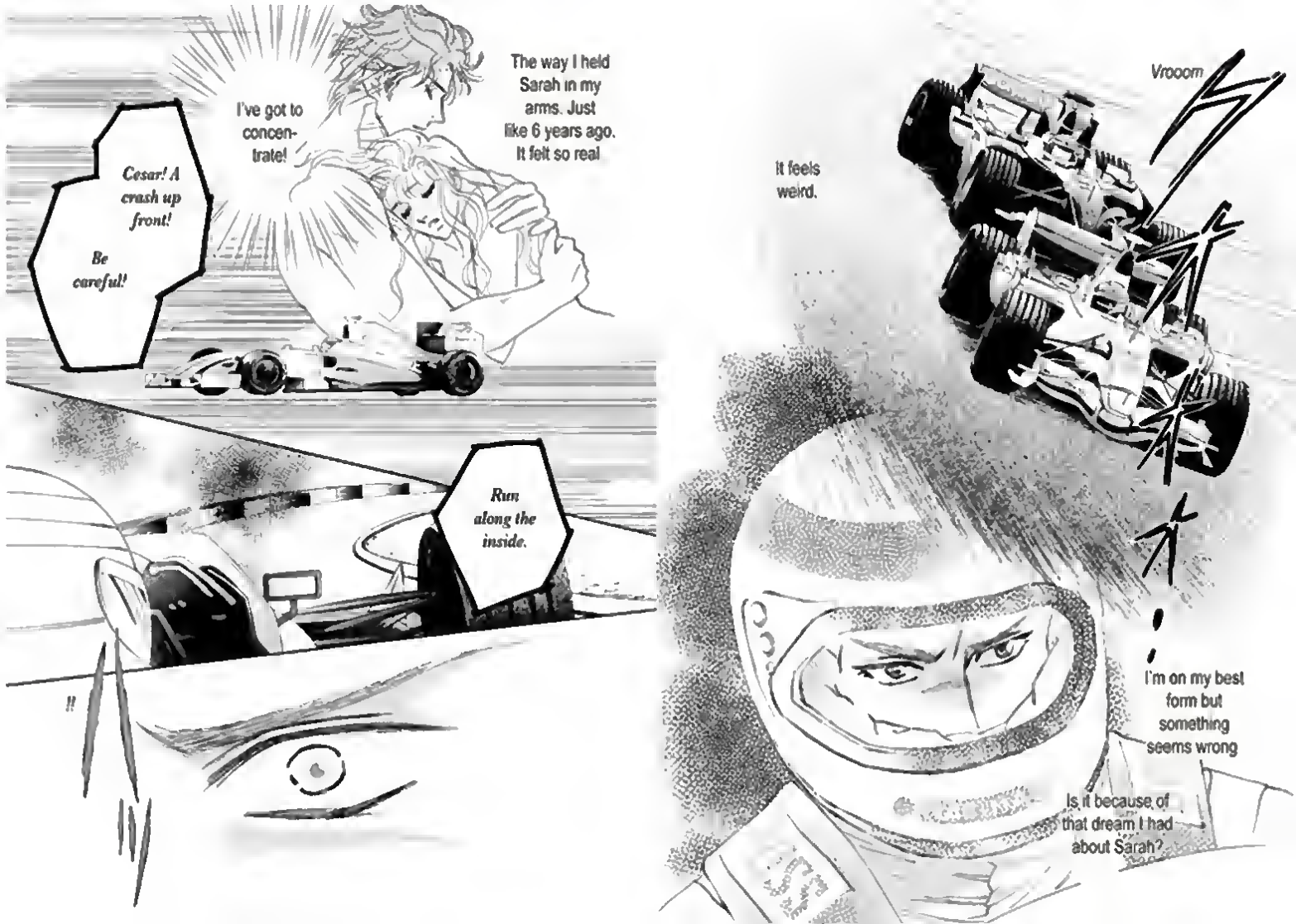
But those days eventually turned into bitter memories.

A secret vacation in a mansion surrounded by flowers

On a hillside beside the blue Italian ocean

Two young lovers burning with passion brighter than the sun.

We made love Losing track of the days and nights That was 6 summers ago


The way I held Sarah in my arms. Just like 6 years ago. It felt so real
I've got to concentrate!
Cesar! A crash up front!
Be careful!
Run along the inside.
!!
Vrooom
It feels weird.
I'm on my best form but something seems wrong
Is it because of that dream I had about Sarah?

Cesar, are you okay?
Please answer me!
Cesar!

Crash
Vwirrr
Was that dream foretelling my death?

Psychological ?

Clack

Clack

But he is paralyzed from the waist down.

We're not sure if his spine is damaged,

Clack

Or if it's psychological.

I cannot say at this stage....

Clack

Creak

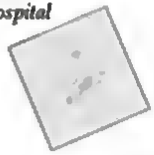
He's lucky to be alive.

F1 Racing Prince Cesar de Falcon in Critical Condition After Crash During Brazil Race

2 Other Racers Hurt

Will the Champion Racer Recover?

Cesar Flown to Local Italian Hospital

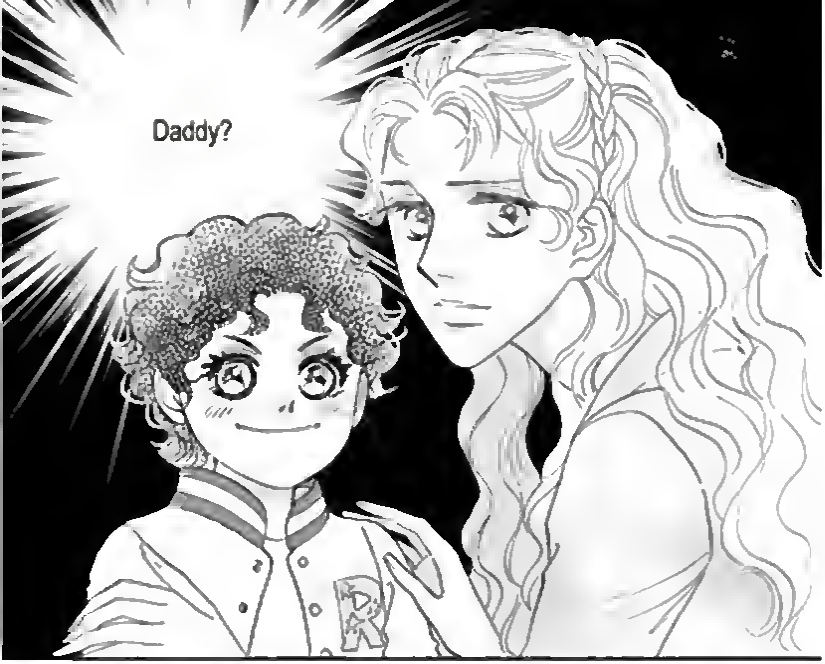


A genius racer destined to win.
The Cesar I knew dazzled brilliantly like the sun.
His racing fascinated motoring fans around the world.
He's closed himself off. He won't take treatment.
But you...
May be able to open up his heart.
He said that if he were to die in a crash, he'd want to die quickly.

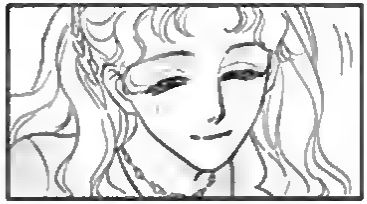
He's been like that since he came around.
He doesn't want to see anyone and even refuses treatment.
Smash
I told you I'll see no one!
He's a proud man so he probably doesn't want anyone to see him like this.
Cesar!
He's distraught that his body doesn't do what he wants.

Why are you here?
What do you want?
I heard on the news. I was worried.
Huh!
Came to laugh at your former lover?
Go away!
I want you to meet someone.
Sarah ...
All right, Doctor.
I'll try.
Yes!
Bring her here!
Great.
Cesar.

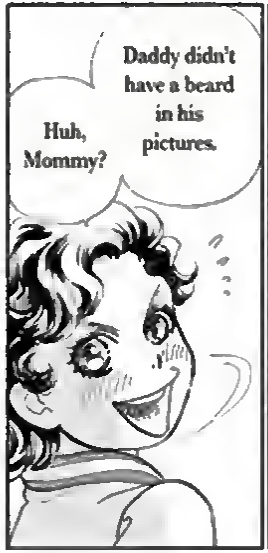
Hello!
Johnny.
Come in.


Daddy?

He's my child?



Nervous
きんちょー
I'm ...
Um ...


Huh, Mommy?
Daddy didn't have a beard in his pictures.

Jean Cesar Priestley de Falcon.
I'm 5.
But...
Everyone calls me Johnny.

Cesar asked to be discharged from the hospital to live in his villa facing the Mediterranean Sea with private medical staff
No.
Thank you, Sarah
You saved him from depression.

Just as the doctor had hoped, Cesar was saved from the depths of despair.

We didn't even say we loved each other
My dream is to become world champion 7 times.
6 years ago, Cesar shunned the idea of a family so he could focus on his racing
Marriage and kids can wait until I retire.
But it was the first time I fell in love and I believed he loved me, too.
His ambition was always so attractive

Look, Daddy!
The cars look like ants!
It was Johnny who saved him
What a kind smile
I never thought Cesar would love children like this.

His brother, Luc, engineers the cars Cesar drives.
His father is Duke Falcon of Monaco. His mother an Italian aristocrat.
Cesar de Falcon.
Truly an F1 prince
BENSO
TOYOTA
Fanasonic
TOYOTO
Mayibric
My father was CEO of a soft drink company that sponsored races.
I was 17. Cesar was 24.
I met him at a party at my home, held for a race on the American West Coast.
When I was 20, Cesar invited me to visit his villa in Italy.
My father was not too happy about it.
But I was so obsessed with him, I didn't listen.
There was nothing to stop our love
And the scent of sweet flowers.
Blue seas, sunshine ..

I blush just thinking about it
Look, Johnny.
But I just wanted to be with you.
I saw you every time I raced in the U. S.,
I couldn't wait for the next race.
Me, either, Cesar.
I love you!

Bam
So different
From 6 years ago
Bam
Bam
Wow! So cute! Looks like a toy!
You can see my house.
Bam
Bam
We're returning to that villa again together
Bam

Hi!
My son, Johnny.
This is...
Angelo, Bianca ...
Master ...
Sob
How sweet.
Oh! You look just like the master.
Please come.
Y... Yes.
Flicker
You've met Sarah.
And ...
He can't move his legs anymore
It must be so hard for someone as proud as Cesar...
To need help.

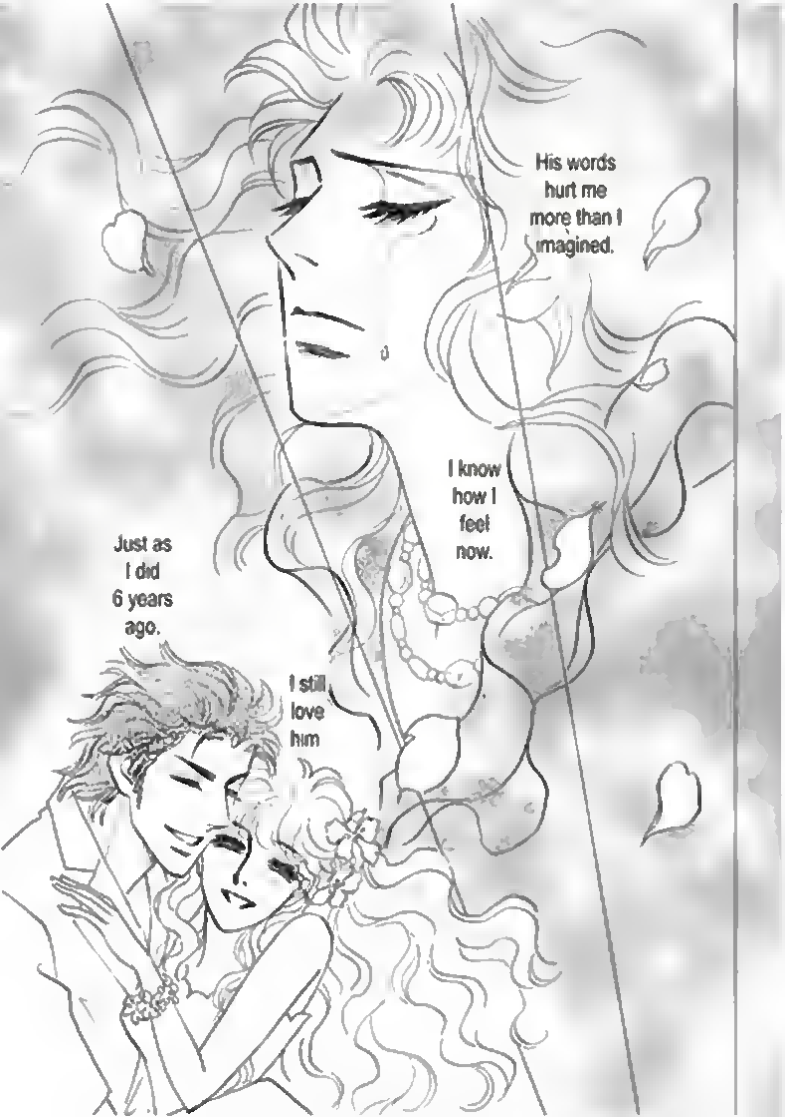
Women are terrible beings.
They use their own children to improve their situations.
You were so sweet, but you're no different.
I didn't...
It's not fair!
Then why did you not tell me?
You hid him from me for 5 years!
I was prepared for this.
I won't be welcome here.
The awkward servants
Mommy! Come on!
Cesar's cold glances, contrasting with Johnny's warm smile.

If I told him then, Johnny and I would have been messed up in that scandal.
The press said your brother's wife was pregnant with your child.
You were already in the middle
That was a lie!
That woman lied...
My parents protected me and supported me when I had Johnny.

Would you have rejoiced?
Before your 3rd victory,
Then if I told you I was pregnant 5 years ago,
You see.
You always used protection. I was worried you wouldn't believe me.
...
I...

I'm not marrying you for love!
It's just for Johnny, my heir.
You can call your parents, too, if you want...
It's not too late.
Let's get married.
Johnny needs a stable family.
My parents and brother will be here next week.
But don't get me wrong.

But I knew I had to let Johnny meet his father.
Where's my daddy?
But I lost my nerve when I read stories about you and other women in the press.
I thought about telling you.
Sigh
And then I had the accident.
How convenient.


His words hurt me more than I imagined.
I know how I feel now.
Just as I did 6 years ago.
I still love him

I'll tell them about it.
You don't need to call them.
"I'm not marrying you for love!"
It's breezy.
Let's go back.

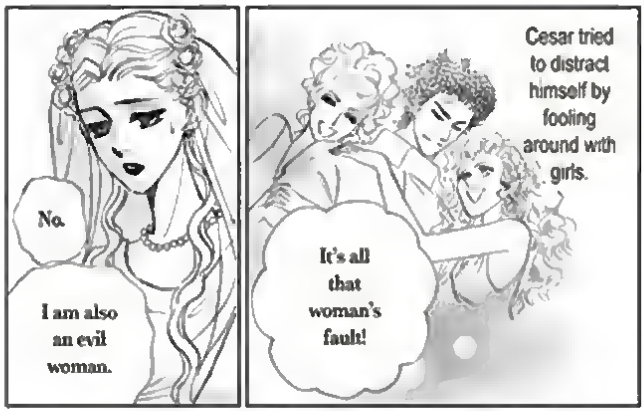
Mommy!
Slam!!"

It's like kissing a stone statue.
It breaks my heart
May God bless this couple.
Amen.

Using her own child to improve her status.
His brother
His parents.
You may kiss the bride.
Everyone here must be thinking that.

Clap
Clap
Clap
Thank you, Father.
I've known your father since he was your age.
Of course I'll pray for that.
What is it?
Can you pray to God for another wish?
Father, please!
I wish for Daddy's legs to get better.
So that he can drive cool cars like he used to!
I was so moved by the wedding.
Johnny was the star of the day.
Congratulations, Cesar.
Dad. Mom.
Murmur
Sob
Johnny ...

Olivia.
And both Americans!
We should be friends, too! Both wives to the Falcon family.
It's like Mari-Claire got a big brother.
Sweet cousins.
He is precious.
I'm so happy. And such a sweet grandson!
And now you're married!
I was so worried when you were in the hospital.
...
But we needn't have.
I was worried about the bride...
You can tell Johnny was brought up by a kind and loving mother.
They're hitting it off.
...
But if you think about the scandal 6 years ago, I don't blame you.
Cesar seems to be angry that you didn't tell him about Johnny.


No.
I am also an evil woman.
Cesar tried to distract himself by fooling around with girls.
It's all that woman's fault!

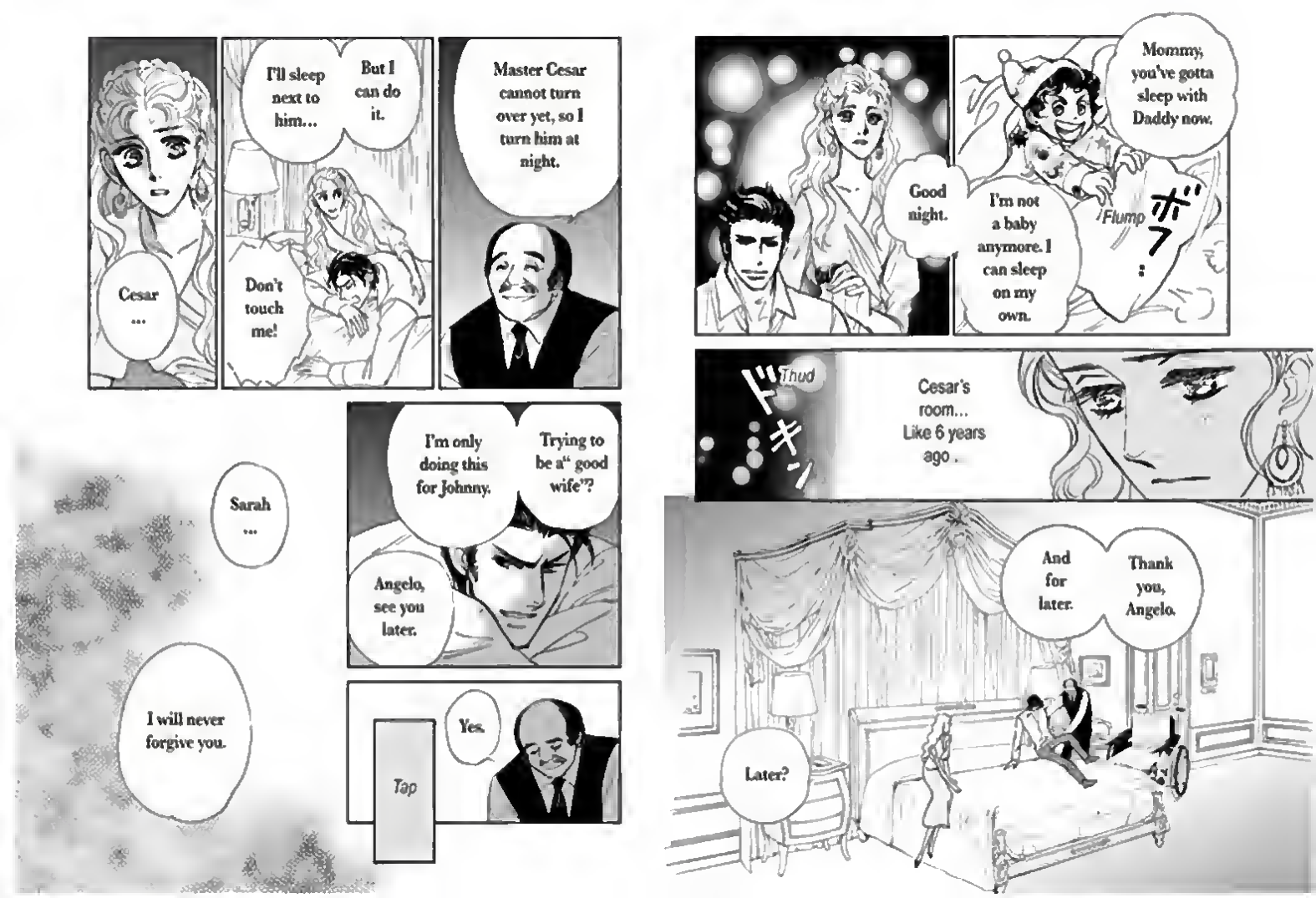
I can never make it up to them.
No matter what the reason, I took their time together away from them.
Sarah?
When I see Cesar and Johnny, I feel so bad...

Luc is so suspicious now,
He even doubted Cesar and me!
Really?

Luc's former fiancée started it.
She wanted the racer Cesar instead of his brother, so she lied and said her baby was his
But she was cheating on him and it was that man's child
No one knew it was a lie and there was tension between the brothers, and their racing team.

I'm so sorry...
Johnny.
Are you sure?
'Course I am!

Mommy.
Why don't I have a daddy?
Johnny.
You have such a wonderful daddy...


Cesar ...
I'll sleep next to him...
But I can do it.
Don't touch me!
Master Cesar cannot turn over yet, so I turn him at night.
Sarah ...
I'm only doing this for Johnny.
Trying to be a" good wife"?
Angelo, see you later.
I will never forgive you.
Tap
Yes.
Good night.
Mommy, you've gotta sleep with Daddy now.
I'm not a baby anymore. I can sleep on my own.
Flump
ボフ
Thud
ドキン
Cesar's room... Like 6 years ago .
Later?
And for later.
Thank you, Angelo.

Darn!
I have to rely on others just to move...
He can only see me like this.
My legs will never...
No matter how much I pray,
Cesar...

If you had told me about Johnny earlier,
He could have seen me win a race.
I could have taken him around the world.
Let him ride in a real F1 car. So much I wanted to do with him.
But now...

My long miserable nights were about to begin.

On the same bed as 6 years ago...

I made some friends

His trainer Vivi is a miracle.
I like Vivi, too!

On my way home I pick up Johnny in Angelo's car.
Master is working hard on his physio.

Hi, Johnny.
Vivi...

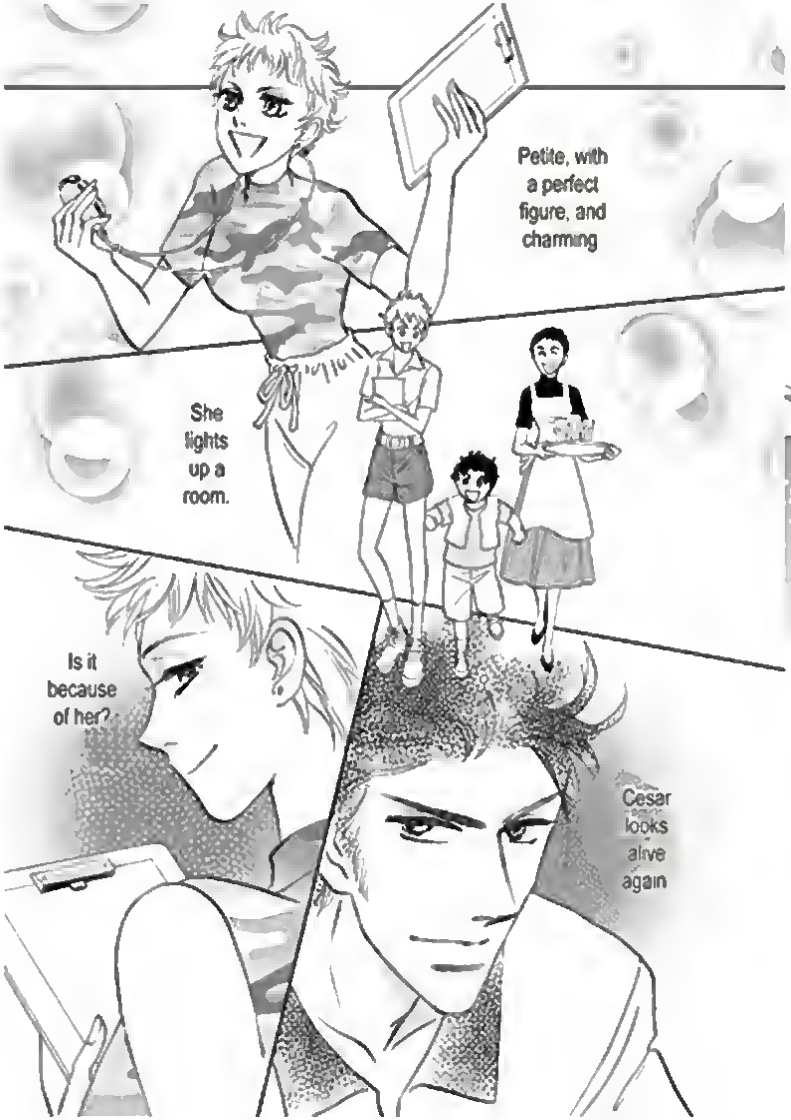
Hey!
Daddy!

He is working hard with an expert to start moving again.
Johnny persuaded Cesar to start physio-therapy

I decided to take up Italian classes

I feel better being with other foreigners

Madam.
Let me do that...


Petite, with a perfect figure, and charming
She lights up a room.
Is it because of her?
Cesar looks alive again

She's so friendly with Cesar
Thud
ズキン……

I...
I'm jealous...

This is nothing! Take it like a man!
Ouch!
Cut it out, Vivi!

I can't sleep

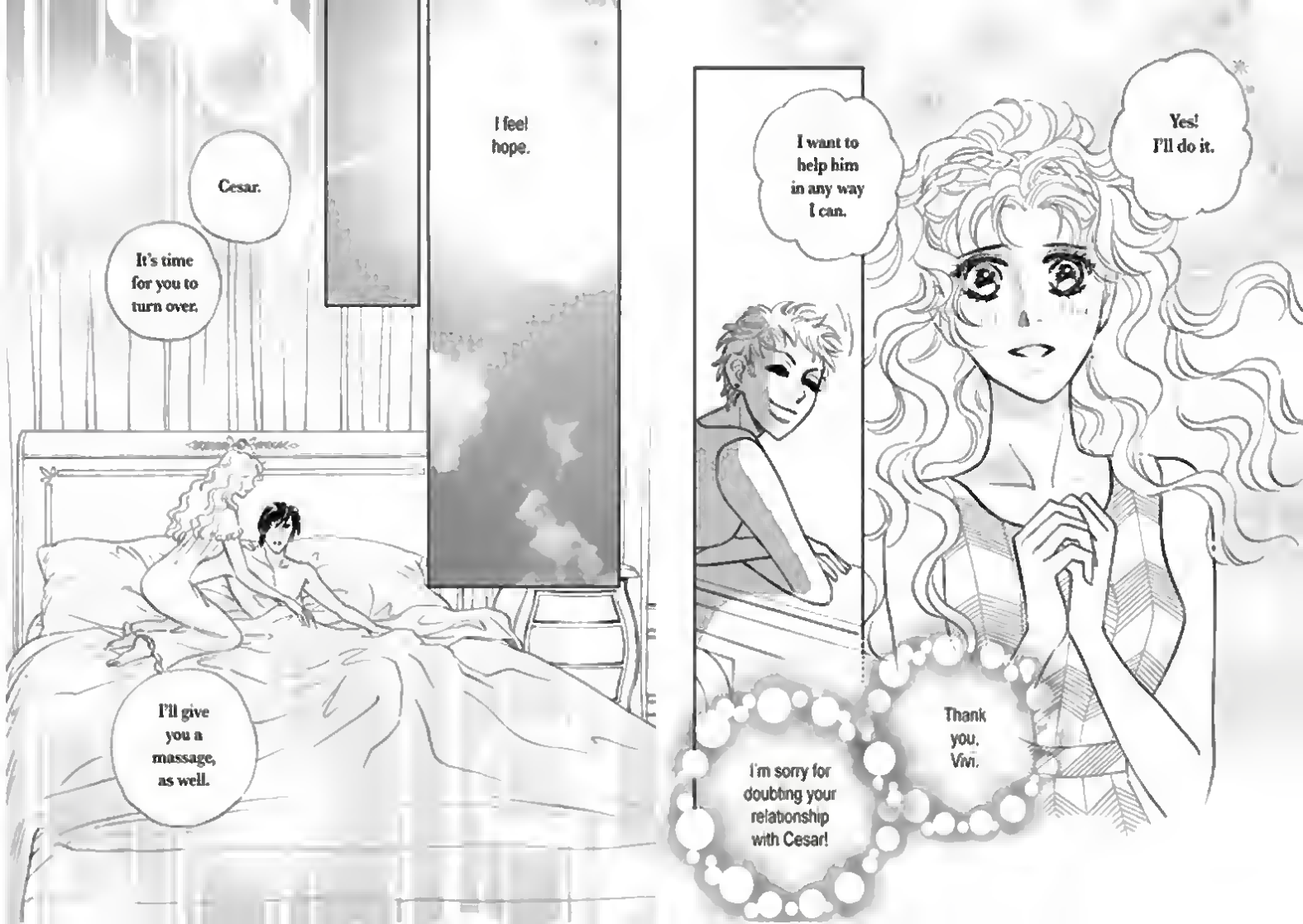
Not just because of Angelo's visits.

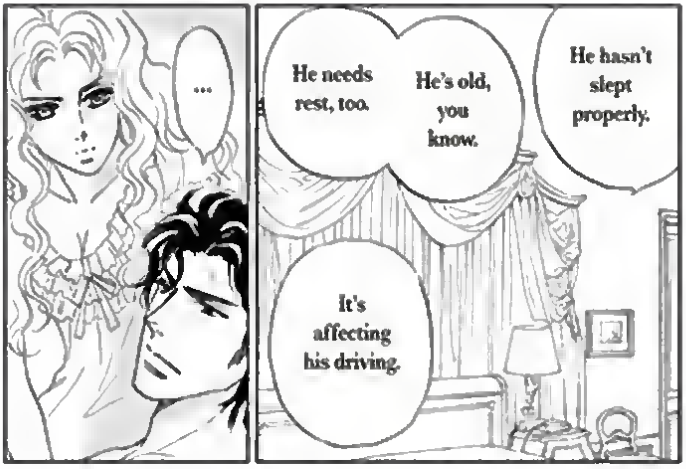
You look just like your dad.
You'll be handsome!
Hahaha
Hahaha

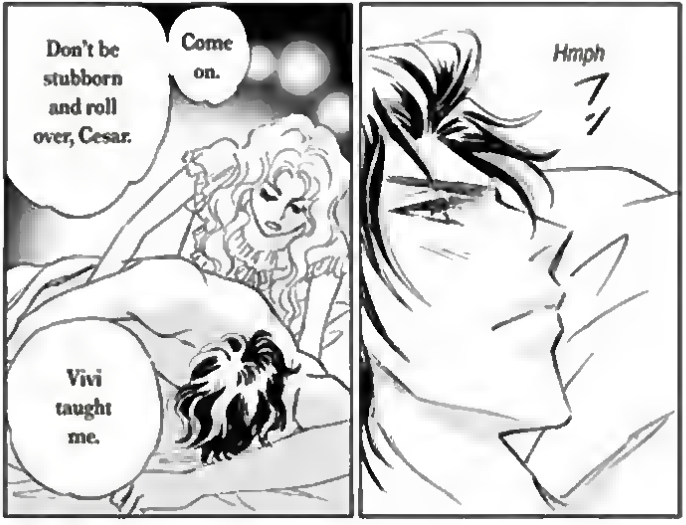
What should I do if she asks me to leave Cesar?
Thud
Thud
Thud
I need to talk to you. Please come.
Yes.
You can help.
Flap
Flap
It's your husband's physio plan.
Look through these.
But Cesar refused treatment...
We should have started earlier.
We're working through it with the doctor.
It hurts!
Vivi!
Ow!
I... Um... Er...
I wanted to help...
Did you want something earlier?
Ma'am.

When I put his progress into a chart and showed him, he started taking it more seriously.
He was going through the exercises, disheartened by his disability.
When Cesar started,
I can teach you.
A few times a day, and at night.
I would like you to massage him.

Wow
Such detailed data and precise planning.
Um ...
We have to try and see.
We'll never know until we try, huh?
Will my husband learn to walk if he follows this?
I wouldn't work so hard for someone with no potential.
Tap
But it's okay!


I feel hope.
Cesar.
It's time for you to turn over.
I'll give you a massage, as well.
I want to help him in any way I can.
Yes! I'll do it.
I'm sorry for doubting your relationship with Cesar!
Thank you, Vivi.


...
He needs rest, too.
He's old, you know.
He hasn't slept properly.
It's affecting his driving.


Don't be stubborn and roll over, Cesar.
Come on.
Vivi taught me.
Hmph

Angelo is coming soon.
Stop!
I don't want you to touch me in bed.

I gave him the night off.
What?
Angelo isn't coming.

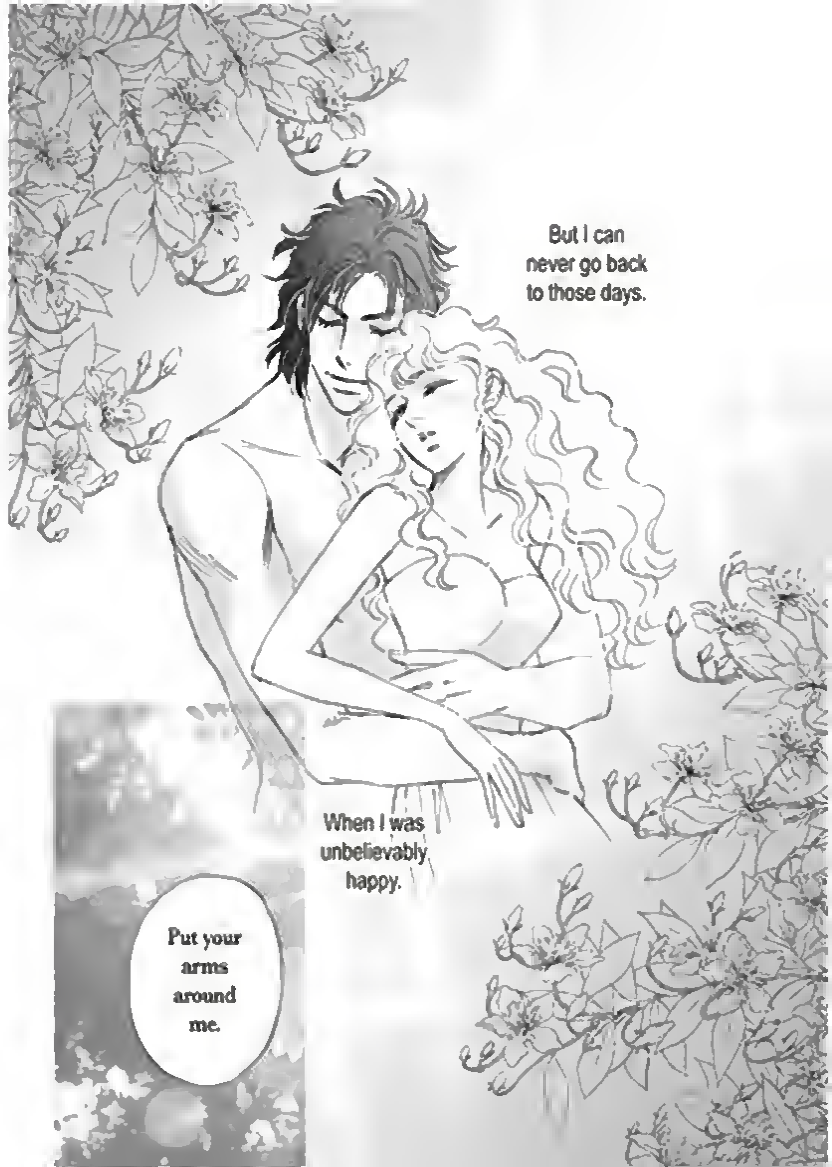
Just ignore Cesar if he says he doesn't want your help.
It's just his pride talking.
My boyfriend is an athlete and he was so difficult after he was injured.
Proud men are often sensitive, too.
Ah.
Does it hurt?
I'm fine.
If he relaxes from the massage, he will heal faster
A miracle might happen...

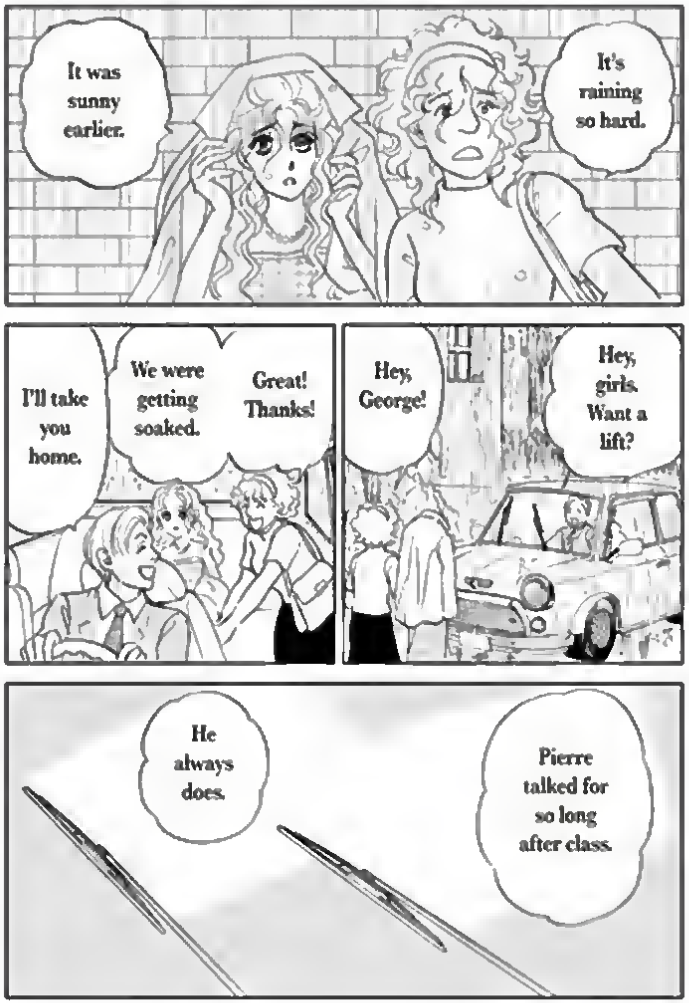
His big hands that once held me
Gentle fingers
The warmth I miss
Such a strong masculine back. Just as I remember
His arms His shoulders

Three.
One,
Two,
Good.
Okay.

Are you all right?
Oh!
Slump
ズサ!

Little by little.
I feel us getting closer.
Ha Ha Ha
I'm fine, Angelo.


But I can never go back to those days.
When I was unbelievably happy.
Put your arms around me.


It was sunny earlier.
It's raining so hard.
I'll take you home.
We were getting soaked.
Great! Thanks!
Hey, George!
Hey, girls. Want a lift?
He always does.
Pierre talked for so long after class.

ガラガラガラ
Rumble
Zaaaa

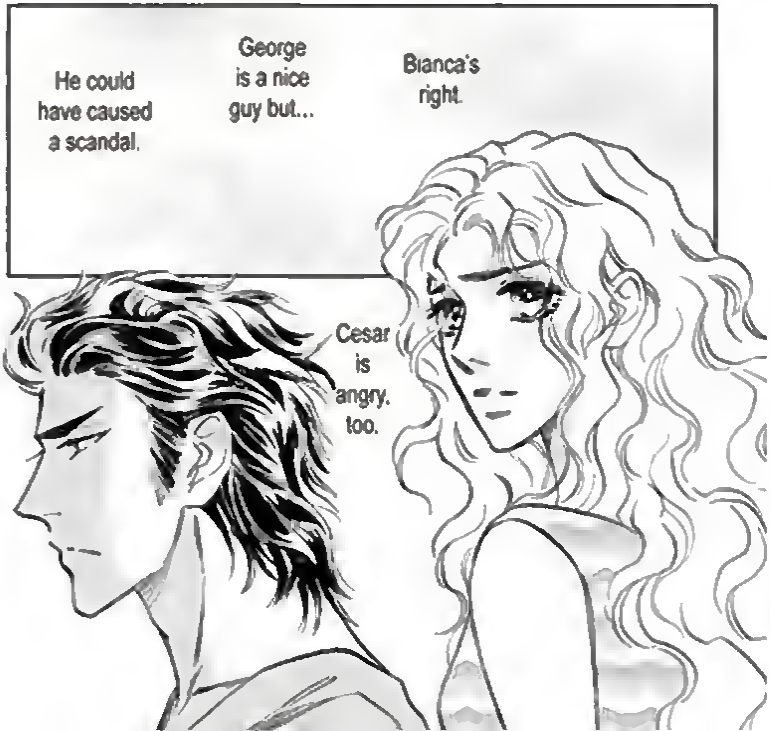
I'm sorry...
I'm married.
Blush
Do you want to go out with me sometime? Ever since I saw you I...
George.
Really?
What!
Devastated
You don't wear a ring, so...
Ha Ha
I didn't realize.
I... See...
No... But...
Home?
Let him take you, Sarah!
Don't worry.
It's okay. I'll take you home, too.
I'll get off here. Thanks.
I live over there.
Me, too.
What should I do?
I'm...
So glad I get to drive you.
I haven't told my classmates I'm married to Cesar de Falcon.

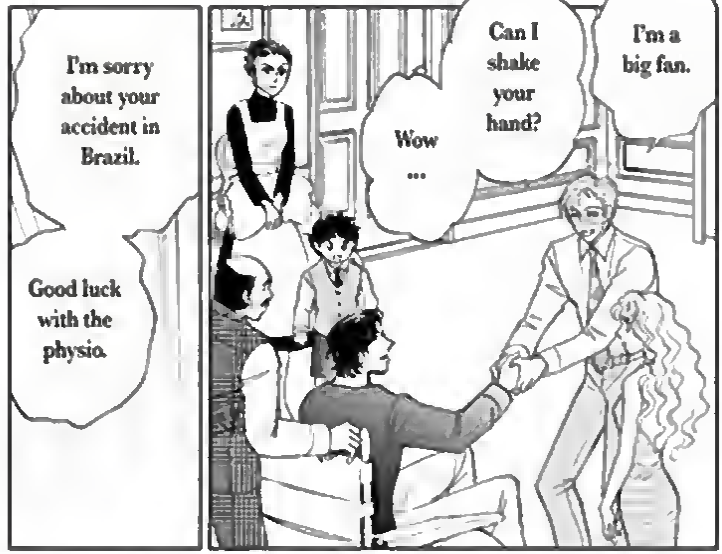
Flash
ピカッ
You live here?
Rumble
ガラガラガラ
Ahh!
キャア
Huh?
We're going farther?
I thought an aristocrat lived up here...
Her class should have finished.
It's raining.
Is Madam not back yet?
She hasn't called. Maybe something...
I see her!
She's getting out of a car.

Splash

That's very kind.
Thank you for driving my wife home.
Thud
ドキン
I see. Please come in.
My classmate George gave me a lift.
If you called I would have come to get you.
Madam.
Huge house.
Huh?
He's your husband?
Cesar de Falcon!
For real?

...
I'm sorry ...
You can't bring a man to this house like that.
As the master's wife, you need to be more careful.
Ma'am.


He could have caused a scandal.
George is a nice guy but...
Bianca's right.
Cesar is angry, too.


I'm sorry about your accident in Brazil.
Good luck with the physio.
Wow ...
Can I shake your hand?
I'm a big fan.

Ahhh あ
Ahhh あ
Ahhh あ・・・
Cesar.
Are you okay?
Zaaaa
!!!

Cesar.
That's not true.
And I won't ever race again
If I don't get over this fear, my body will never move again
You will race again.
Gasp
Gasp
Did you have a nightmare...
About the accident?
I...
Keep feeling that fear...
Of dying.

You'll win the next one, too.
I felt like I could win when you said that.
But now...
Her sweet kiss hasn't changed
I've watched all your races.
Pull
There'll be a day when you wow the crowd again.
And reach the goal like a hero.
You'll shoot past the curve.
There are fans out there like George who want you to race again.
I believe that.

Poor Sarah.
Your husband will never sweep you off your feet.
Just rolling around in a wheelchair.
You got bored, so you took off your ring.
That makes me so angry.
No.
Cesar.
And went for a drive with another man.
I took the ring off because it was too extravagant, and people would notice.
Your eyes...
Cast me into further despair.

Just like I take out my frustrations on my useless body.
Her tears make me feel more miserable
I'm taking my anger out on her fragile body.

It doesn't matter. It's not like I love you.
I'm just kissing out of lust. Not love.

So it's okay.
If it means I can help you.
Why don't you reject me?
Playing your role as my wife?
Or are you just craving affection?
I...
Love you.

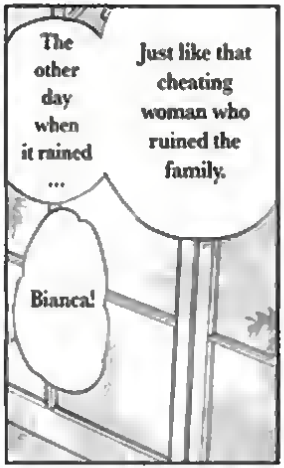
Master Luc, Madam Olivia.
Welcome.

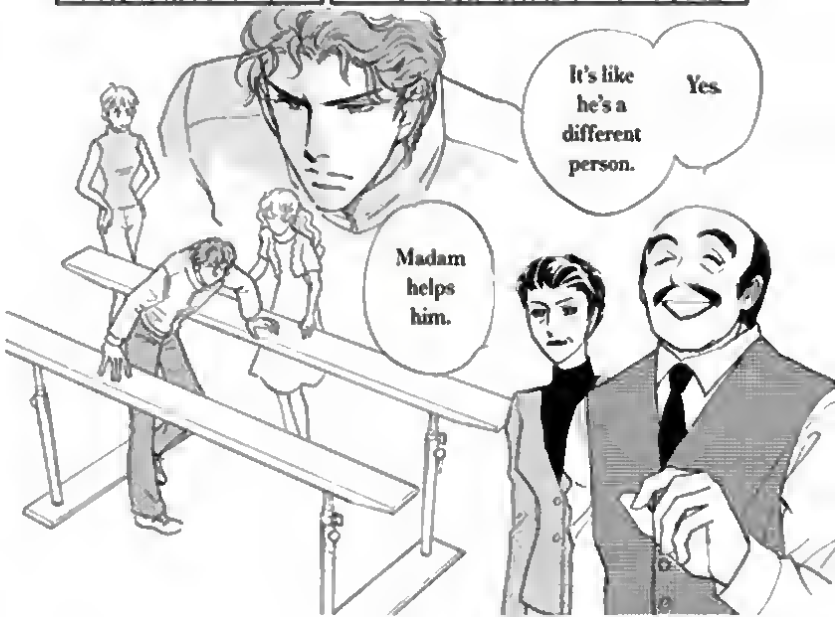
Don't show me pity in bed.
Cesar.
Stop it!

She might look devoted,
Really?
But outside she might be fooling around.
Not Sarah!
Wonderful! It must be Sarah's devotion and care.

He was working so hard.
I went to see Cesar training.
Come on, Mari-Claire.
I want to show you something.
Okay!

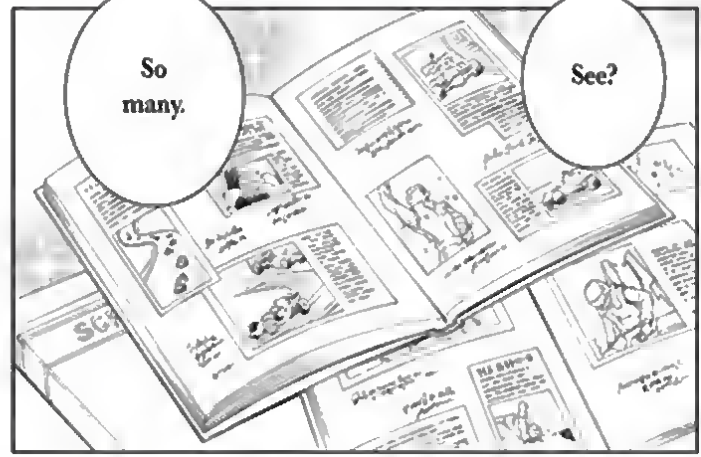
Slam
Johnny's got pictures of his dad.
Look!


The other day when it rained ...
Just like that cheating woman who ruined the family.
Bianca!


It's like he's a different person.
Yes.
Madam helps him.

She used to show me and tell me, "Your daddy is the world's no. 1 racing hero."
SCRAP Book

It looks like Sarah only loved Cesar these past 6 years.


So many.
See?

She's been making this scrapbook since she first met Daddy.
It was Mommy's.
She has every article he has ever been in.

Are all articles of Cesar's races.
These ...
Up until the accident.

How are you?
Hey!

You helped me after my injury, too.
Hi, Vivi.
Hey, Luc.

And now she is Cesar's talented trainer.

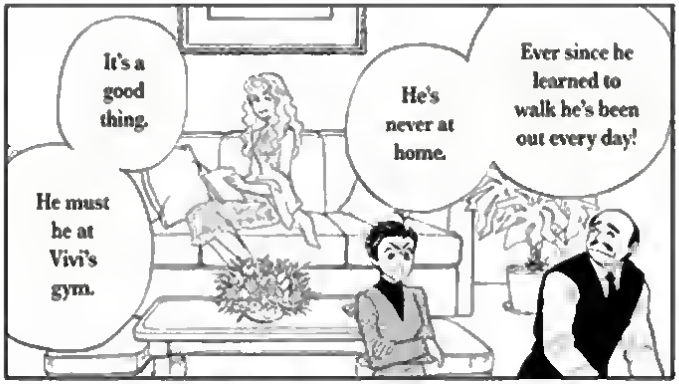
She should be my assistant!
Sarah's devotion is amazing.
She not only learned the massages but the whole training program.

Can you come down?
Hey!
You guys.

Cesar stood up!
Watch.

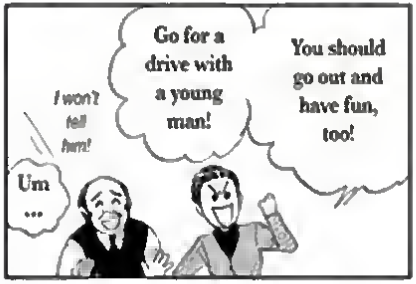
It's a miracle.
Thank you, Vivi.
It's all thanks to you.
Bianca. Angelo.
Daddy!
You can walk!
Cesar... I'm so happy...
Haven't you forgotten someone?
Go hug her.
Yes, Master.
...

Did she?
She cried all day!
Mommy was so happy she cried.
No.
I don't need to.
You can be my little walking stick.
I can walk with you!
I'm so happy.
She used to cry when she showed me her scrapbook.
She missed you.
She always cries for you.


It's a good thing.
He must be at Vivi's gym.
He's never at home.
Ever since he learned to walk he's been out every day!

Did he forget who nursed him?
Men are so self-centered!

When Cesar's not here, the house does seem empty and sad, but..


Um ...
I won't tell him!
Go for a drive with a young man!
You should go out and have fun, too!

The master won't stay still!

To take you to our team's circuit.
Cesar asked me...
Master Luc!
Johnny, too?
I'm not young but want a ride?
To spend with Johnny recently.
You must not have had time...
He's been busy.
I won't tell Olivia!
Your car is fabulous!
Take her!
Er...
Please.
Get in.
He doesn't love me ..
I know.
Cesar isn't coming...

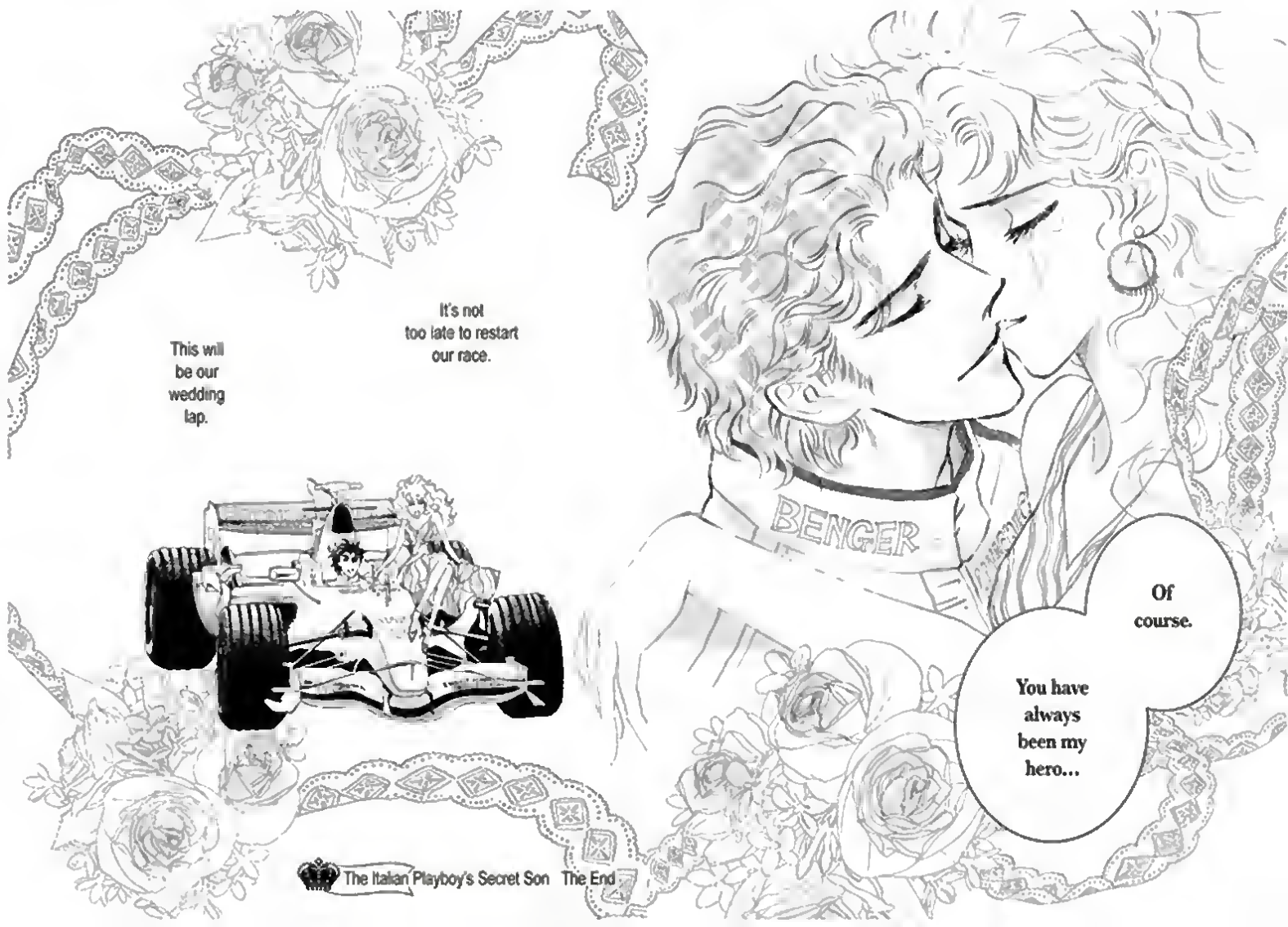
Vrooom
The familiar sound of the engines.
The smell of burned oil
How long has it been since I was on a racetrack?
Vrooom
Vrooom
Just watch.
He just got back from a test run.
I thought he was with Vivi...
Cesar? He's been here?
Welcome.
Cesar's been practicing to show you.
Cesar has raced at his local circuit since his teens.
A racing car!
Cool!
Look, Mommy!
It's Daddy!
I can't believe it! He can already drive?

What?
ドキン
Thud
Yeah!
Okay!
You always wanted to ride in Daddy's car.
How cool, Johnny!
Yeahy!
Yes!
Want to get in?
Sorry, Johnny.
But your mom's riding first.
Fanasonic
TOYOTA
Excuse me, signora.
Ah!
Go on, Mommy!
がしっ
Grab

If I hadn't overcome my self-loathing and fears of the past,
I wouldn't have been able to tell you.
Can I be your hero again?
Cesar.

That's why he's been practicing.
He wanted to drive you.
Hold on.
I'll go slowly.
Panasonic

As your husband, and as a racer
I wanted to respond to your love,
I love you, Sarah.


This will be our wedding lap.
It's not too late to restart our race.
BENGER
Of course.
You have always been my hero...

Shojo-Manhwa Scans

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